

Appl. No. 10/075,406

Amdt. dated December 22, 2003

Reply to Office action of October 21, 2003

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Rose for the courtesy she extended to Applicant's attorney Steven Koffs in a telephone interview on December 18, 2003. During the interview, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 were discussed. After a detailed review of FIGS. 1, 2A and 4, and paragraphs [0055] and [0058] of the specification, agreement was reached that the application does provide an enabling disclosure of the subject matter of claims 1-25. Applicant's attorney agreed to submit an amendment to FIG. 1 to add item 37, which previously appeared in FIG. 4 but had been omitted from FIG. 1, thus making FIG. 1 consistent with FIG. 4.

Applicant's attorney also clarified his earlier comments that, "the first contact 'can be' the first end 302 and the second contact 'can be for example' contact 303. Applicant's attorney indicated that in the example of FIG. 2A, the first contact is the first end 302 and the second contact is the second end 303; however, in other embodiments the first and second contacts may differ from items 302 and 303 in FIGS. 2A and 4. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,640,048 to Selna. Claims 2, 3, 6-7, claims 9, 12, 15, 19 and claims 22-24 are rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of claim 1, 8, and 21 respectively, and claims 1, 8 and 21 are hereby canceled. Claim 20 is amended to include the features of claim 2. Claims 26-31, which were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner pursuant to a restriction requirement, are hereby canceled, to place the application in condition for allowance. Thus all of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 have been obviated.

Claims 32-37 are added to better cover the invention. New claims 32-37 include the features of claims 3-7, but are dependent on claim 20.

The foregoing amendments do not raise any new issue of patentability or introduce new matter into the application. Accordingly, entry of this amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 116 is proper.

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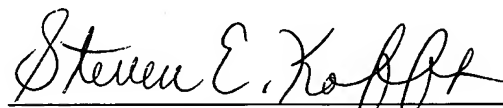
Although claims 1, 8 and 21 are being canceled to expedite the prosecution of this application, applicant reserves the right to seek broader coverage of the invention in a continuing application while this application is still pending.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account **04-1679**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Steven E. Koffs, Reg. No.: 37,163
Attorney For Applicants

DUANE MORRIS LLP
One Liberty Place
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-7396
(215) 979-1250 (Telephone)
(215) 979-1020 (Fax)